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TITLE OF THE INVENTION

DEVELOPING APPARATUS AND IMAGE-FORMING APPARATUS

The present invention relates to a developing apparatus for forming a developed image by feeding a developing agent onto an electrostatic latent image formed on an image-bearing member, and relates also to an image-forming apparatus incorporating the developing apparatus.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

As an output apparatus for computers and work stations, electrophotographic image-forming apparatuses are known which form an image on a recording medium by using a powdery developing agent (toner). Such an image-forming apparatus is equipped with an image-bearing member like a photosensitive drum on which an electrostatic latent image is formed, and a developing apparatus for supplying a developing agent onto the electrostatic latent image formed on the photosensitive drum.

A conventional developing apparatus is explained below by reference to Figs. 10 and 11.

Fig. 10 is a schematic drawing showing an example of conventional developing apparatus. Fig. 11 is a front view of a developing apparatus provided with a conventional magnetic sealing member.

The developing apparatus 10 is equipped with a toner container (developing agent container) 12 for holding a magnetic developing agent (hereinafter referred to as "magnetic toner T"), a stirring member 14 for delivering the magnetic toner T with stirring, and a roll-shaped (cylindrical) developing sleeve (developing-agent holder) 16 for holding the magnetic toner T delivered by the stirring member 14 on the